

**Senate Study Bill 1193 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON ZAUN)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to assaults on sports officials, making  
2 penalties applicable, and including effective date  
3 provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 708.3A, subsections 1, 2, 3, and 4, Code  
2 2023, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
4 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
5 member or employee of the board of parole, health care  
6 provider, employee of the department of human services,  
7 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
8 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
9 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a  
10 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,  
11 or sports official, with the knowledge that the person against  
12 whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer,  
13 correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole,  
14 health care provider, employee of the department of human  
15 services, employee of the department of revenue, national  
16 guard member engaged in national guard duty or state active  
17 duty, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian  
18 employee of a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports  
19 official, and with the intent to inflict a serious injury  
20 upon the peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member  
21 or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
22 employee of the department of human services, employee of  
23 the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
24 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee  
25 of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire  
26 department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, is guilty of a  
27 class "D" felony.

28 2. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
29 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
30 member or employee of the board of parole, health care  
31 provider, employee of the department of human services,  
32 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
33 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
34 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a  
35 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,

1 or sports official, who knows that the person against whom the  
2 assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional  
3 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health  
4 care provider, employee of the department of human services,  
5 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
6 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
7 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a  
8 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, and who  
9 uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the  
10 assault, is guilty of a class "D" felony.

11 3. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
12 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
13 member or employee of the board of parole, health care  
14 provider, employee of the department of human services,  
15 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
16 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
17 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a  
18 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,  
19 or sports official, who knows that the person against whom the  
20 assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional  
21 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health  
22 care provider, employee of the department of human services,  
23 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
24 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
25 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of  
26 a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, and  
27 who causes bodily injury or mental illness, is guilty of an  
28 aggravated misdemeanor.

29 4. Any other assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), committed  
30 against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member  
31 or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
32 employee of the department of human services, employee of  
33 the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
34 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee  
35 of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire

1 department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, or  
2 sports official, by a person who knows that the person against  
3 whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer,  
4 correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole,  
5 health care provider, employee of the department of human  
6 services, employee of the department of revenue, national  
7 guard member engaged in national guard duty or state active  
8 duty, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian  
9 employee of a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports  
10 official, is a serious misdemeanor.

11 Sec. 2. Section 708.3A, subsection 5, Code 2023, is amended  
12 by adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oh.* "Sports official" means an individual  
14 who serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar  
15 capacity, at any athletic contest, and who is a member of  
16 or registered with a local, state, regional, or national  
17 organization that is engaged, in part, in providing education  
18 and training to referees, umpires, linesmen, or persons in  
19 similar capacities.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
21 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to assaults on sports officials.  
26 Current law provides that a person who commits an assault,  
27 as defined in Code section 708.1, with the knowledge that  
28 the other person is a peace officer, jailer, correctional  
29 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health  
30 care provider, employee of the department of human services,  
31 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member  
32 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian  
33 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a  
34 fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, is  
35 guilty of an offense with penalties ranging from an aggravated

1 misdemeanor up to a class "D" felony. The bill adds "sports  
2 officials" to the list of protected occupations.

3 The bill provides that a person who commits an assault  
4 against a sports official, with the knowledge that the person  
5 against whom the assault is committed is a sports official,  
6 and with the intent to commit a serious injury, is guilty of a  
7 class "D" felony. The bill provides that a person who commits  
8 an assault against a sports official, who knows that the person  
9 against whom the assault is committed is a sports official, and  
10 who uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the  
11 assault, is guilty of a class "D" felony. The bill provides  
12 that a person who commits an assault against a sports official,  
13 who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed  
14 is a sports official, and who causes bodily injury or mental  
15 illness, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. The bill  
16 provides that any other assault committed against a sports  
17 official by a person who knows that the person against whom  
18 the assault is committed is a sports official is a serious  
19 misdemeanor.

20 A class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no  
21 more than five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not  
22 more than \$10,245. An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable  
23 by confinement for no more than two years and a fine of at  
24 least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A serious misdemeanor is  
25 punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine  
26 of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

27 The bill defines "sports official" as an individual who  
28 serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar  
29 capacity, at any athletic contest, and who is a member of  
30 or registered with a local, state, regional, or national  
31 organization that is engaged, in part, in providing education  
32 and training to sports officials.

33 The bill takes effect upon enactment.